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Riverside Police Officer to Receive Medal of Valor from Governor Brown

Riverside, CA – On Thursday, September 13, 2012, Riverside Police Officer Zachariah Fishell will receive the Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor for his bravery, making the conscious decision to put his life in eminent danger to protect the safety of others. Sadly, the two victims, who were also public safety officers, died at the scene. Victim Arabella Bradford was a Parole Agent I with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Malvin H. Conley was a CDCR Correctional Officer at California Institution for Men in Chino.

Summary of Event

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at approximately 5:58 p.m., the Riverside Police Department's Communications Center received numerous 9-1-1 calls. The callers advised that a male adult was shooting at people in the 11500 Block of Trailway Drive.

A few blocks away, Riverside Police Officer Zachariah Fishell was on patrol when he heard several gunshots. Officer Fishell immediately responded toward the sound of the gunfire in an attempt to locate its source. Officer Fishell located the crime in progress within 90 seconds of hearing gunfire; still the only officer on scene, he immediately left his vehicle to assess the situation. As Officer Fishell approached, he could see concerned neighbors in their yards and he witnessed the suspect with a handgun, shooting a female at very close range. Knowing he had to quickly intervene, Officer Fishell pursued the departing suspect, fearful that the suspect would enter a residence and take hostages. The confrontation led to an officer involved shooting. The suspect, later identified as Virgil Anthony Millon, was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

"We will never know how many lives were saved by Officer Fishell's heroic actions," said Riverside Police Chief Sergio Diaz. "Officers are trained to rapidly evaluate an incident, but no amount of training can adequately prepare an officer for what Officer Fishell encountered that day. Officer Fishell demonstrated the highest standard of courage and professionalism, forestalling what could have been an even more tragic event."

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